



SUBJECT: Opposed to RGGI

Dear Governor Wolfe,

I write in opposition to your proposed regulation, CO2 Budget Trading Program as published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on November 7, 2020 (50 Pa.B. 6212), which will join Pennsylvania to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). I urge the Independent Regulatory Reform Commission (IRRC) to reject Governor Wolf's proposed RGGI tax.

I work for an environmental consulting firm in western PA. As an environmental consultant, I have worked on numerous energy projects including coal projects, solar farms, gas plants and wind farms. I believe in "all of the above" energy policy. Your plan to join RGGI without the proper public input/public hearings is a travesty. It will directly affect my family and the clients that I serve.

Joining RGGI will result in the premature closure of Pennsylvania's coal and older natural gas power plants, rendering nearly two-thirds of our electric generation uncompetitive, with no benefit to Pennsylvania. The closure of these power plants will result in the loss of thousands of direct jobs, negative impacts to secondary and tertiary industries that support the plants, the erosion of income and property tax revenues, and increased power prices that will burden consumers and businesses.

Modeling shows that carbon dioxide reductions from plant closures or reduced generation in Pennsylvania will simply shift to neighboring, non-RGGI states, like Ohio and West Virginia. Those states will also take the related jobs, capital expenditures and, yes, carbon dioxide. As a result, carbon dioxide emissions will increase in those states, which will more than offset any emission reductions in Pennsylvania.

At a time when our state is in an economic crisis with record unemployment, no one should choose to harm wages and job security, threaten the survival of businesses and manufacturers, and further jeopardize regional economies that are already struggling to survive. To add insult to injury, the Wolf Administration is manipulating the regulatory process to eliminate any meaningful opportunity for people in impacted communities to have a voice, as required by law.

Approving the CO2 Budget Trading Program and joining Pennsylvania to RGGI does nothing to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, it merely exports the production of affordable, reliable and resilient electricity to Ohio and West Virginia, where fossil fueled power plants aren't taxed, and exports Pennsylvania jobs and our economy too.

You need to reject the RGGI tax regulation and protect the jobs of thousands of Pennsylvanians struggling to make ends meet during this terribly difficult pandemic recession.

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